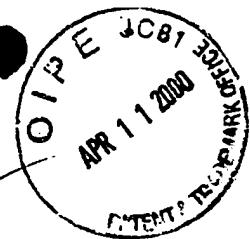


Docket No. BMID9826US



PATENT

SAC
#4 A
S.S.00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Wolfgang-Reinhold Knappe

Application No.: 09/426,931

Group No.: 1743

Filed: October 22, 1999

Examiner: ~~To Be Assigned~~ eROSS

For: SPREADING LAYERS, WETTING AGENTS FOR THEIR PRODUCTION AND THEIR USE IN TEST STRIPS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments prior to examination of the above-referenced application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 to 28 in the originally filed application without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

29. A spreading material comprising a porous flat-shaped structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent comprises an N-acyl-glycinate of formula I



in which R represents an aliphatic group with 9 to 23 carbon atoms, the aliphatic group being saturated or comprising one to three double bonds,

R^1 represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and